

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 01554 050525Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-02 H-01

/061 W

----- 022101

R 050417Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2766

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1554

D/PW FOR HENDERSON

GENEVA FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF DEAN/SHARMAN CASE WITH AUSTRALIAN
AMBASSADOR

REFS: A) VIENTIANE 1467

B) VIENTIANE 1428

1. AMBASSADOR BORTHWICK CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MARCH 4 TO
RELATE SUBSTANCE OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH LAO PATRIOTIC
FRONT (LPF) REPRESENTATIVE SANAN SOUTHICHAK ON MARCH 3
CONCERNING LPF LETTER (REF A) ON DEAN/SHARMAN.

2. BORTHWICK SAID HE TOLD SANAN THAT LETTER WAS UNACCEPT-
ABLE TO GOA AND THAT CONVINCING PROOF EXISTED THAT DEAN
AND SHARMAN WERE ON THE BOAT AND WERE REMOVED BY LPF
AUTHORITIES. FURTHER, HE TOLD SANAN THAT ALLEGATIONS THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 01554 050525Z

THAI RIVER PATROL BOAT OR AIRCRAFT MIGHT HAVE FIRED ON

AND SUNK THE LAO BOAT CARRYING DEAN AND SHARMAN WERE RIDICULOUS; IF THAT HAD HAPPENED, LPF WOULD HAVE PROTESTED INCIDENT AND GOA AND USG WOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED IMMEDIATELY. AMBASSADOR BORTHWICK TOLD SANAN THAT HE WANTED TO PURSUE THE MATTER WITH PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG THIS WEEK AND WITH AUTHORITIES AT VIENG SAY (SAM NEUA) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. SANAN, APPARENTLY RECOGNIZING INHERENT WEAKNESS OF POSITION IN HIS LETTER, DID NOT DISPUTE BORTHWICK'S STATEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LETTER HAD BEEN WRITTEN PRIOR TO RETURN OF INVESTIGATOR SENT TO KHAM KEUT AREA. HE ADDED THAT HIS AUTHORITY DID NOT EXTEND TO KHAM KEUT AREA AND THEREFORE HE DID NOT HAVE A FIRM GRASP OF WHAT HAD OCCURRED. SANAN AGREED TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT FOR BORTHWICK WITH SOUPHANOUVONG AND SAID VISIT TO VIENG SAY WOULD BE EXCELLENT IDEA.

4. AMBASSADOR BORTHWICK NOTED THAT THIS CONVERSATION WITH SANAN WAS FAR LESS GLOOMY THAN HIS MOST RECENT ONE WITH PHOUMI (VIENTIANE 1394). SANAN TOLD HIM THAT IF THE TWO MEN WERE IN LPF ZONE HE (SANAN) BELIEVES THEY ARE STILL ALIVE.

5. BORTHWICK TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT CANBERRA CONSIDERS A JOINT US/AUSTRALIAN PRESENTATION TO SOUPHANOUVONG (PROPOSED REF B) INADVISABLE. BORTHWICK WILL THEREFORE PURSUE HIS REQUEST THROUGH SANAN AND AMBASSADOR WILL MEET WITH SOUPHANOUVONG MARCH 6.

6. COMMENT: BORTHWICK IS ENCOURAGED BY SANAN'S READINESS TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM HIS LATEST LETTER AND TACIT AGREEMENT THAT THE THAI ANGLE IS ABSURD. WE BOTH BELIEVE THAT THE PATHET LAO LINE THAT THE INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING SHOWS THAT THE CASE IS FAR FROM CLOSED. SANAN'S POSITIVE APPROACH TOWARD A VIENG SAY/SAM NEUA VISIT BY BORTHWICK IS ALSO INTERESTING. IT SEEMS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE PL WILL AGREE TO SUCH A TRIP.

WHITEHOUSE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 01554 050525Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, DETENTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI01554
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750076-0657
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750378/aaaacsqz.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 VIENTIANE 1467
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION OF DEAN/SHARMAN CASE WITH AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR
TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA, US, (DEAN, CHARLES M), (SHARMAN, NEIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006